

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /061 W

----- 067552

R 071242Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5561

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI CABINET'S MEMBERSHIP REMAINS UNCHANGED
AFTER YARIV'S RESIGNATION

REF: TEL AVIV 685

1. SUMMARY. GOI COMPOSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED, WITH
HAIFA MAYOR ALMOGI DECLINING TO ENTER CABINET AND RUMORS
RE POSSIBILITY THAT RABIN WOULD ASK EBAN TO JOIN GOVERNMENT
PROVING UNFOUNDED. PRESS EXPECTS ELIMINATION OF INFORMATION
MINISTRY IN WAKE OF YARIV RESIGNATION, WITH FUNCTIONS
TRANSFERRED TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND HAIFA
MAYOR JOSEPH ALMOGI OVER PAST WEEK REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF
LATTER'S PARTICIPATION IN CABINET AS MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO
WERE BROUGHT TO A CLOSE FEBRUARY 6 WITH ALMOGI'S ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT HE HAD DECIDED AGAINST JOINING CABINET. AN IMPORTANT
CONSIDERATION APPARENTLY WAS COMMITMENT WHICH ALMOGI HAD
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MADE, AT TIME OF HIS ELECTION TO MAYORAL POST, THAT HE WOULD

SERVE FULL TERM. HIS DECISION REPORTEDLY WAS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY OPINION OF JUSTICE MINISTER ZADOK THAT HOLDING TWO POSTS AT SAME TIME WOULD BE IN APPROPRIATE. ALMOGI, SPEAKING AT HAIFA MUNICIPAL RECEPTION FOR RABIN, SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD SHOWN GREAT UNDERSTANDING FOR VIEW THAT HE SHOULD NOT BREAK PROMISE TO HIS CONSTITUTENTS.

3. AS REGARDS IMPLICATIONS ON NATIONAL SCENE, ALMOGI HAS PROMISED RABIN THAT, DESPITE DECISION NOT TO ENTER CABINET, HE WILL EXTEND FULL SUPPORT FOR HIM PERSONALLY AND FOR HIS GOVERNMENT. RABIN'S READINESS TO BRING ALMOGI INTO CABINET, AND BY EXTENSION RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANCE OF LABOR PARTY'S HAIFA BRANCH, COULD HELP RABIN TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POSITION WITHIN LABOR PARTY. ACCORDING TO PRESS, BASIS HAS BEEN LAID FOR GREATER COOPERATION IN COURSE OF LATEST INTERPARTY CONSULTATIONS AMONG LEADERS OF PARTY'S THREE PRINCIPAL URBAN BRANCHES --NAMELY, FINANCE MINISTER RABINOWITZ (TEL AVIV), LABOR MINISTER BARAM (JERUSALEM) AND ALMOGI. THIS COOPERATION, IF INDEED IT MATERIALIZES, COULD STRENGTHEN RABIN'S HOLD OVER MAINSTREAM MAPAI SECTION OF LABOR PARTY. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT RABIN HAD BEEN CATAPULTED TO TOP LEADERSHIP ROLE WITHOUT FIRMLY ESTABLISHED BASE WITHIN PARTY, AND THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM IN LAST SEVERAL MONTHS REGARDING HIS DIFFICULTY IN CONSOLIDATING HIS POSITION AS LEADER OF LABOR PARTY (TEL AVIV A09, PAGE 8).

4. SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT RABIN MIGHT TRY TO BRING FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN INTO CABINET (REFTEL) HAS PROVEN WITHOUT FOUNDATION. EBAN TOLD PRESS EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT NO ONE HAD CONTACTED HIM ABOUT ANY CABINET POSITION.

4. HAARETZ FEBRUARY 7 FRONTPAGES REPORT THAT, AFTER SECRETARY'S MIDEAST VISIT IS COMPLETED, RABIN WILL ANNOUNCE ELIMINATION OF INFORMATION MINISTRY. ACCORDING TO HAARETZ WRITER, RABIN WILL TRANSFER RESPONSIBILITIES OF INFORMATION MINISTRY, WHICH REFER TO INFORMATION SERVICES ONLY INSIDE ISRAEL, TO SENIOR MEMBER OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. VELIOTES

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